6/5 LIBRARY

BOROUGH OF BRACKLEY

# Annual Reports

of the

## Medical Officer of Health

For the years
1939 and 1940

# REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER, 1939.

---

Mr. Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors,

I have the honour to submit for your consideration the Report of your Medical Officer of Health combined with that of your Sanitary Inspector for the year 1939.

## PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS.

**Medical Officer of Health :** Dr. J. A. A. Duncan, L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S. (Edin.), L.R.F.P.S. (Glasgow), D.P.H. (Lond.), held a full time public health appointment as District Medical Officer of Health and Assistant Medical Officer to the Northamptonshire County Council, his duties extending to the Rural Districts of Brackley and Brixworth, while by virtue of his appointment under the County Council he was responsible for the examination of all elementary school children in those areas and, in addition, conducted Child Welfare Clinics at Brackley, Moulton, Brixworth and Welford.

Dr. Duncan resigned his appointment in October 1939 to join H.M. Forces and Dr. D. J. Jones, M.B., B.Ch., B.Sc., D.P.H., was appointed to fill the vacancy. I desire to record my thanks to members of the Council and Staff for their help and co-operation at the commencement of my duties in January 1940.

**Sanitary Inspector :** Mr. C. G. Williams, your Sanitary Inspector resigned his appointment and terminated duties at the end of January. Mr. A. A. Green, your former Sanitary Inspector, who retired in June 1938, was reinstated temporarily and continued in this Office until the end of June. On July 1st Mr. C. Morgan, A.R.S.I., M.S.I.A., whom you had appointed following the resignation of Mr. C. G. Williams, commenced duties.

Mr. Morgan, in addition to fulfilling the duties of Sanitary Inspector, is also your Surveyor, Rating Officer and Farm Manager.

## STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

| | |
|---|---|
| Area of Borough (acres) ... | 1,685 |
| *Population ... ... | (a) 2,323 (for calculating Birth Rate) |
| | (b) 2,407 (for calculating Death Rate) |
| Number of inhabited houses (end of 1939) ... | 740 |
| Rateable Value of Borough (1st April, 1939) ... | £11,717 |
| Sum represented by a penny rate ... ... ... | £44 |

*Represents the Registrar-General's estimate of population at mid-1939.

The health of the community has continued at a high-level and has been free of any marked incidence of infectious disease. The schools in the Borough as represented by Winchester House, a preparatory boarding school for boys, Magdalen College, a secondary school for boys, Brackley High School, a secondary school for girls, Brackley Council School, a mixed school for senior elementary children and Brackley Church of England Schools, a mixed school for infants and young children were also free from any serious incidence of disease.

## VITAL STATISTICS.

| | Total. | Male. | Female. | Rate per 1,000 Brackley | Rate per 1,000 England & Wales. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Live Births ... | 31 | 18 | 13 | 13.3 | 15.0 |
| Legitimate | 30 | 18 | 12 | | |
| Illegitimate | 1 | — | 1 | | |
| Still Births ... | 1 | 1 | — | | |
| Deaths (from all causes) ... | 32 | 17 | 15 | 13.2 | 12.1 |

| | Total. | Male. | Female. |
|---|---|---|---|
| Deaths from Puerperal causes ... | Nil | — | — |
| Deaths of infants under 1 year ... | 1 | — | 1 |
| Deaths from Measles ... ... | Nil | — | — |
| Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age ... ... ... | Nil | — | — |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Deaths from Whooping Cough ... | Nil | — | — |
| Deaths from Diphtheria ... ... | Nil | — | — |
| Deaths from Cancer (all ages) ... | 4 | 2 | 2 |
| Deaths from Pneumonia (all forms) | 1 | 1 | 0 |

The registered causes of death were as follows:—

| | Males. | Females. | Total. |
|---|---|---|---|
| Influenza ... ... ... ... | — | 1 | 1 |
| Pulmonary Tuberculosis ... ... | — | — | — |
| Other forms of Tuberculosis ... ... | 1 | — | 1 |
| Cancer ... ... ... ... | 2 | 2 | 4 |
| Cerebral Hæmorrhage ... ... | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| Heart Disease ... ... ... | 3 | 2 | 5 |
| Aneurysm ... ... ... ... | — | — | — |
| Other Circulatory diseases ... ... | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| Bronchitis ... ... ... ... | 2 | — | 2 |
| Pnuemonia (all forms) ... ... | 1 | — | 1 |
| Other respiratory diseases ... ... | 1 | — | 1 |
| Peptic Ulcer ... ... ... ... | — | — | — |
| Diarrhoea ... ... ... ... | — | — | — |
| Appendictitis ... ... ... ... | — | — | — |
| Other digestive disturbances ... ... | 1 | — | 1 |
| Congenital debility : Premature birth, etc. ... ... ... ... | — | 1 | 1 |
| Senility ... ... ... ... | 2 | 5 | 7 |
| Other defined diseases ... ... | 2 | — | 2 |
| Total ... ... | 17 | 15 | 32 |

The death-rate of 13.3 is subject to modification by applying to it an " area comparability factor " as estimated by the Registrar-General to adjust the crude figures in accordance with the difference in age and sex distribution of residents in this Area with that generally appertaining in England and Wales as a whole. After applying this factor the corrected death-rate for Brackley is 9.2 as compared with 12.1 for England and Wales.

**Infant Mortality.** The number of deaths of infants under one year of age was 1. This is equivalent to an infant mortality rate of 32.2 per 1,000 live births as compared with a rate of 50 for England and Wales.

## GENERAL HEALTH SERVICES.

**Laboratory Facilities :** The pathological department of the Northampton General Hospital continued to offer facilities for the examination of swabs from suspected cases of Diphtheria while specimens of sputum are examined free of charge by the County Tuberculosis Officer.

Bacteriological examination of water samples is carried out at a nominal charge by the County Health Department.

(b) **Ambulance Facilities :** This authority participates in the Daventry Joint Hospital Board Scheme and the Board's Ambulance is available for the removal of infectious cases to the Isolation Hospital at Staverton. A nurse accompanies the ambulance.

(c) **Clinics and Treatment Centres :** Your Medical Officer in his capacity as Assistant County Medical Officer of Health regularly held an Infant Welfare Clinic every second Thursday of the month ; at these clinics talks and demonstrations of Health matters were given, and it is satisfactory to record an increasing attendance during the year under review.

The Mansfield Orthopædic Hospital continued to hold clinics in Brackley and treats all children sent from the Centre, while also dental treatment, and where necessary, operational treatment for enlarged tonsils and adenoids, are available through arrangement with the County Public Health Department.

## SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES.

1. (i) **Water Supplies :** The Council's well continued to yield satisfactorily throughout the year. Repairs were carried out to the pumping plant, and during these operations the public were advised to boil all drinking water.

(ii) **Drainage and Sewerage :** The sewage disposal works continued to function satisfactorily throughout the year.

2. **Rivers and Streams :** No complaints were received regarding the pollution of rivers and streams, and the satisfactory working of the disposal works should prevent any nuisance occurring.

3. **Public Cleansing :** Refuse is collected weekly and is dumped at a disposal tip situated off Turweston Road ; the dump is sufficiently removed from residences to prevent nuisance.

## HOUSING.

**Sanitary Inspection :**

1. Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year :

(1) (a) Total number of houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ... ... ... ... ... ... 52

(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses included under sub-head (1) above which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Reguations 1925 and 1932 ... ... ... 10

(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose 22

(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ... ... ... ... —

(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ... ... ... ... ... ... 12

2. Remedy of Defects during the year without service of formal notices :

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers ... ... ... ... 12

3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year :

(a) Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs —

(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices ... —

(a) By Owners ... ... ... ... —

(b) By Local Authority in default of owners —

(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts :

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ... ... ... ... ... —

(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :

(a) By owners ... ... ... ... —

(b) By Local Authority in default of owners —

(c) Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act 1936 :

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ... —

(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ... ... ... —

(d) Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act 1936 :

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made ... ... ... ... —

(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined the tenement or room having been rendered fit ... ... —

4. Housing Act, 1936—Part IV.—Overcrowding :

(a) (i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year ... ... ... ... ... —

(ii) Number of families dwelling therein ... —

(iii) Number of persons dwelling therein ... —

(b) (i) Number of cases of overcrowding reported during the year ... ... ... ... ... —

(c) i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year ... ... ... ... —

(ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases —

(d) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding ... ... ... ... ... —

(e) Any other particulars with respect to overcrowding conditions upon which the Medical Officer of Health may consider it desirable to report ... —

## INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a) **Milk Supply :** Dairies were inspected during the year and were found to be kept in a cleanly manner. 9 Samples of milk were submitted to the County Medical Officer for bacteriological examination ; eight samples were of good bacterial purity and the other one bad.

(b) **Food and Drugs Act, 1938 :** Section 14 of this Act came into force on 1st October of the year under review, under which premises used for the manufacture or sale of ice-cream or the preparation of preserved foods were required to be registered. Seven premises were registered which were periodically inspected and found to be kept in a proper manner.

(c) **Meat and other Foods :** There are four licenced slaughter-houses in the area ; these were regularly inspected and were found to be kept in a cleanly manner. From the period 1st July to the end of the year under review 218 cattle, 1097 sheep and lambs, 604 pigs and 23 calves were slaughtered. 578lbs. of meat and offal were found to be diseased and unfit for consumption and were voluntarily surrendered.

## INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Six cases of scarlet fever were notified during the year, five of which were removed to the Isolation Hospital. One case of enteric fever was reported and removed to the Isolation Hospital ; the source of infection could not be traced. There were no deaths from infectious disease.

## TUBERCULOSIS.

No case of Tuberculosis occurred during the year under review.

## REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER, 1940.

### PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS.

**Medical Officer of Health :** David J. Jones, M.B., B.Ch., B.Sc., D.P.H.

**Sanitary Inspector :** C. Morgan, A.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

### STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

| | |
|---|---|
| Area of Borough (Acres) ... | 1,685. |
| Population ... ... ... | 2,621. |
| Number of inhabited houses (end of 1940) ... ... | 749. |
| Rateable Value of Borough (1st April, 1940) ... | £12,210. |
| Sum represented by a penny rate | £46 |

There was no serious incidence of disease during the year under review, and the health of the community continued at a high level.

### VITAL STATISTICS.

| | Total. | Male. | Female. | Rate per 1,000 Brackley | Rate per 1,000 England & Wales. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Live Births ... | 28 | 17 | 11 | 10.7 | 14.6 |
| Legitimate | 27 | 16 | 11 | | |
| Illegitimate | 1 | 1 | — | | |
| Still Births ... | Nil | | | — | ·55 |
| Deaths (from all causes) ... | 34 | 20 | 14 | 12.9 | 14.3 |
| Deaths from Puerperal causes ... | Nil | | | | |
| Deaths of Infants under 1 year... | Nil | | | — | 55.0 |
| Deaths from Measles ... ... | Nil | | | | |
| Deaths from Diarrhoea under 2 years | Nil | | | | |
| Deaths from Whooping Cough ... | Nil | | | | |
| Deaths from Diphtheria ... ... | Nil | | | | |
| Deaths from Cancer ... ... | 3 | | | | |
| Deaths from Pneumonia (all forms) | Nil | | | | |

The registered causes of deaths were as follows :—

| | Male. | Female. | Total. |
|---|---|---|---|
| Cerebro Spinal Fever ... ... ... | — | 1 | 1 |
| Pulmonary Tuberculosis ... ... | — | — | — |
| Other forms of Tuberculosis ... | 1 | — | 1 |
| Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum ... | 1 | — | 1 |
| Cancer of all other sites ... ... | — | 2 | 2 |
| Diabetes ... ... ... ... | — | 1 | 1 |
| Intracran, vasc, lesions ... ... | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| Heart Disease ... ... ... ... | 1 | 3 | 4 |
| Other Circulatory diseases ... ... | 2 | — | 2 |
| Bronchitis ... ... ... ... | 2 | — | 2 |
| Suicide ... ... ... ... | 1 | — | 1 |
| Road traffic accident ... ... ... | 1 | — | 1 |
| Other Violent causes ... ... ... | — | 1 | 1 |
| All other causes ... ... ... | 10 | 5 | 15 |
| Total ... | 20 | 14 | 34 |

Heart disease and Cancer were the commonest causes of death.

Applying the "area comparability factor," estimated at .90 to the crude death rate of 12.9 the corrected death rate for the Borough is 11.6.

## GENERAL HEALTH SERVICES.

**Laboratory Facilities :** The pathological department of the Northampton General Hospital continued to offer facilities for the examination of swabs from suspected cases of Diphtheria. Towards the end of the year under review, the Council agreed to the recommendation to participate permanently in the services available at the Emergency Public Health Laboratory utilising the branch at Oxford under Professor Wilson. In future all pathological specimens and samples of water will be examined at this Laboratory.

**Ambulance Facilities :** No change from 1939.

**Clinics and Treatment Centres :** Infant Welfare, Ante Natal and Orthopædic Clinics continued to operate during the year under review, while dental and operational treatments for enlarged tonsils and adenoids were carried out through arrangement with the County Public Health Department.

## SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES.

**Water Supply :** The Council's well continued to yield satisfactorily throughout the year. In January of the year under review some evidence of pollution of the supply was found on bacteriological examination of a sample of the water. The storage tanks were thoroughly cleansed and further samples proved satisfactory. Practically all houses are connected to the Council's mains.

**Drainage and Sewerage :** The sewage disposal works functioned satisfactorily throughout the year. With the exception of 18 houses in outlying parts of the Borough all houses are connected to the Council's system of sewers.

**Rivers and Streams :** No complaints were received regarding the pollution of streams by the effluent from the disposal works.

**Public Cleansing :** House refuse is collected weekly utilising carts and horses owned by the Council. The disposal tip is far removed from residences and no nuisance occurred.

**Camping Sites :** There are no camping sites in the Borough.

**Smoke Abatement :** No action was found to be necessary in connection with smoke abatement.

**Swimming Baths and Pools :** The open-air swimming bath, used by the public during the summer months, was carefully maintained during the season.

**Schools :** The sanitary condition and water supply of all schools in the Borough were satisfactory.

## HOUSING.

1. Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year :

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| (1) | (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ... ... ... ... ... | 45 |
| | (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose | 56 |
| (2) | (a) Number of dwelling-houses included under sub-head (1) above which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925 and 1932 ... ... | — |

(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ... ... ... ... —

(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ... ... ... ... ... ... 8

2. Remedy of Defects during the year without service of formal notices :

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the local authority or their Officers ... ... ... ... 6

3. Proceedings under Public Health Acts :

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ... ... ... ... ... ... 2

(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—

(a) By owners ... ... ... ... 2

(b) By Local Authority in default of owners —

## INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a) **Milk Supply :** The inspection of dairies was carried out during the year and were found to be kept in a cleanly manner. Nine samples of milk were submitted to the County Medical Officer of Health for examination 7 of which were returned as of good bacterial purity and 2 moderate.

(b) **Food and Drugs Act, 1938 :** Premises used for the manufacture or sale of ice-cream or the preparation of preserved foods were regularly inspected during the year and found to be kept in a proper manner.

(c) **Meat and Other Foods :** During January of the year under review three of the licenced slaughter-houses in the Borough were closed and the remaining one was requisitioned as a Government Slaughterhouse. During the year 675 Cattle, 3,733 Sheep and lambs, 670 pigs and 47 calves were slaughtered at this slaughterhouse. Upon inspection, carcases and offal weighing 4 tons 10 cwts. 2 lbs. were voluntarily surrendered, being diseased and unfit for human consumption. Diseased meat and offal are collected by a reputable merchant for further utilisation.

## INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The following cases of infectious disease were reported during the year :—

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Scarlet Fever | ... | ... | 3 |
| Whooping Cough | | ... | 4 |
| Measles | ... | ... | 140 |
| Pneumonia | ... | ... | 1 |

One case of Scarlet Fever was removed to the Isolation Hospital.

**Tuberculosis :** One case of Tuberculosis of the spine was reported during the year.

DAVID J. JONES,
Medical Officer of Health.

November, 1941.

J .Smart & Co., School Magazine Printers, Brackley, Northants.

b